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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

REPORT NO.

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INFORMATION REPORT

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COUNTRY USSR (Estonian SSR)

DATE DISTR. 13 July 1951

SUBJECT Military and Naval Installations on
Saaremaa Island

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PLACE 25X1A

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REFERENCE COPY

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1. In the village of Kurefer (approximately 58-26N, 21-57E), north of Kihelkonna light (approximately 58-21N, 22-03E), there is a small electrically-lighted wharf for Soviet coast-patrol boats of the PI-type. The following patrol boats were observed at this dock at various times during early December 1950: [REDACTED] All flow green flags. These boats were particularly active at night, patrolling the coast from a distance of one to two nautical miles, with lighted projectors. The PI-boats resemble the former German R-boats. Each boat is armed with four 20 to 30 millimeter cannon, two fore and two aft. Source stated that the PI-boats are well known as the vessels used for guarding the coast in this area. They are believed to be MVD vessels.
2. There are several barracks near the wharf, all occupied by Soviet soldiers. The only vehicles observed in the vicinity were a truck and a car resembling a jeep. No horses were observed.
3. The farms and houses in the immediate vicinity of the barracks were apparently occupied by the normal civilian population of the area, and farmers were at work in the fields*.
4. During the daylight hours only, cannonading was heard from an area south of Kurefer. Judging from the sound, the weapons in use were heavy cannon. Their distance from Kurefer could not be determined.**
5. On the coast about 1500 meters north of Kurefer is a construction similar to the attached sketch. The entire construction, including the dome, was painted a light color which shone like metal. Source believes that the attached sketch is of a radar station, since its appearance and dimensions strongly suggest known Soviet radar stations at Arkona, Swinemunde, etc.
6. Several searchlights are installed along the coast from Vilsandi (58-23N, 21-48E) to Sorve (58-03N, 22-12E); however, the exact positions are unknown***.

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7. A vessel about 60 meters in length was observed leaving Kurefer on the evening of 17 December 1960, and was observed again when it arrived at Ventapils on the morning of 18 December. The vessel was low in the water, with bridge approximately amidship and a mast at the stern edge of the bridge. Aft of the bridge was a low, slanting funnel. Armament consisted of one cannon fore and two aft. The latter were installed side by side on the quarterdeck. There was a single mine-bar on the quarterdeck. The stern was cut off flat. ****

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Comments:

- 25X1X * [REDACTED] disagrees with recent reports that all civilians in this coastal area were evacuated.
- ** This agrees with earlier reports which mentioned cannon of up to 30 centimeter caliber both north and south of Kurefer on Saaremaa Island.
- *** Lively searchlight activity in this area is well known, and at least some of the lights are believed to operate in conjunction with radar stations.
- **** It is believed that this ship may be a postwar constructed minesweeper of the improved TRAL-class.